Projects through PFC.

1. Evacuation System for Maithon RB (1000 WIW), Koderma (1000 MW) and Bokaro ext. (500 MW)

2 Scheme for enabling import of NER/ER surplus by' NR

Projects through REC:

1. Evacuation System for North Karanpura (1980 MW)

2. Talcher Augmentation System.

Setting up of merchant power plants

†84. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have chalked out a plan to set up 25 merchant power plants In the country;

(b) if so, the detailed outlines of this plan and the total power generation capacity of these projects;

(c) whether it is a fact that the selling price of power generated under these projects will be fixed as desired by the project owners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) In. order to facilitate the development of electricity markets, the Ministry of Power has issued the guidelines on development of Merchant Power Plants, for which coal linkage/captive coal blocks would be available. The Ministry of Power, in consultation with the Ministry of Coal, has identified 15 coal blocks with estimated reserves of about 3.6 Billion tones for allocation to merchant and captive power plants through the Screening Committee route. The number of merchant plants are not firmed up as it will depend upon the availabiiity of sites and other inputs required for the setting up of the Merchant Power Plants which are required to be tied up by the developer.

(c) and (d) The selling price of power generated under these projects

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

shall not be predetermined, but shall be left to be determined by competitive market conditions.

Tapping of hydro power potential

85. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether hydro power potential in some States has not been tapped at the desirable pace;

(b) if so, the detaiis alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some States are reluctant to follow the norms laid down by the Union Government in signing the MoUs for setting up of Hydro Power Projects in their States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. .

(b) out of about 1,50,000 MW of exploitable hydro electric potential identified, 20.3% has been developed and 9.4% is under deverepment The hydro power potential of Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern States *viz.* Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim *and* Arunachal Pradesh could not be harnessed at desired pace. The development of hydro potential has been slow due to the following reasons:

(i) Difficult/in-accessible sites.

(ii) Environment, Forest and Wildlife Clearance related problems

(iii) Land acquisition and Rehabilitation problems.

(iv) Law and order problems.

(v) Paucity of Funds & longer gestation period.,

(vi) Adverse geological conditions.

(vii) Inter-state aspects.

(vii) Higher initial construction cost.